

REMARKS

1. Declaration

The Office Action has indicated that the Declaration is defective. A substitute Declaration is being sought and will be filed when executed.

2. Restriction

The Office Action requires restriction to one of two identified groups of claims:

- I. Claims 18 – 20 and 53 – 58; and
- II. Claims 21 and 59 – 62.

Applicants affirm the election of Group I without traverse and have accordingly canceled the claims of Group II without prejudice or disclaimer.

3. Claim Rejections

Claims 18 – 20 and 53 – 58 have been examined. Claims 18 – 20, 53, 54, and 56 – 58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,392,351 (“Shun'ko”) and under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Pat. Publ. No. 2003/0015965 (“Godyak”); Claim 55 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Shun'ko and under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Godyak.

Independent Claim 18 has been amended to clarify that each of the first substrate support structure, the second substrate support structure and the transformer-coupled plasma generator are disposed in an undivided processing chamber compartment as illustrated in Fig. 2A of the Application. Fig. 6B of Shun'ko and Fig. 7A of Godyak both show structures in which a plasma source acts to divide a processing chamber into separate compartments within which

different substrates are processed. Fig. 6A of Shun'ko shows a structure in which the plasma source is disposed outside the processing chamber and not "within" an undivided processing chamber compartment as now recited in the independent claim.

The dependency of Claim 57 has been corrected.


Examination of the claims as amended is accordingly requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,


Patrick M. Boucher
Reg. No. 44,037

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 303-571-4000
Fax: 415-576-0300
PMB:pmb
60687028 v1